

# July 2021 Terror Attacks

*In July 2021, two terror attacks were registered in Europe*

**July 25<sup>th</sup>, London, UK:** a 39-year-old woman wearing a Charlie Hebdo t-shirt was stabbed multiple times by an individual dressed in black and wearing a hood who managed to flee the scene. The attack occurred in Hyde Park's notorious Speakers' Corner. The victim suffered minor injuries to the head and the police later recovered presumably used by the assailant not far from the place of the attack. <sup>1 2</sup>

The victim of the assault is Hatun Tash, a former Muslim who turned to Evangelism, and a well-known DCCI (Defend Christ Critique Islam) activist who constantly engages with Muslims at Speakers' Corner and in mosques on a weekly basis, she is involved in Christian-Muslim discussion, debates, and Bible studies. <sup>3</sup>

**July 29<sup>th</sup>, Florence, Italy:** a 31-year-old Kurdish with Iraqi citizenship was arrested and accused of at least six stabbings that occurred in different parts of Florence. The attacks did not lead to any death. According to investigations, the attack could be politically motivated as the assailant was looking for United States citizens to target, due to Washington's decision to leave Iraq and "abandon its Kurdish allies". Among the stabbed victims, a Dutch tourist and an Italian citizen. <sup>4 5</sup>

## Summary Table

Location	Site	Year, month	Day	Target	Attacker(s)	Sex	Weapon(s)	Nationality	Age	Mental ill.	Motivation	Dec. attackers	Dec. vict.	Inj. vict.	Previous Conviction
London (United Kingdom)	Urban	2020, 07	25	Civilians	1	n/a	Knife	n/a	n/a	n/a	Hate crime	0\1	0	1	n/a
Florence (Italy)	Urban	2020, 07	29	Civilians	1	M	Knife	Iraqi Kurdish	31	n/a	Political	0\1	0	1	n/a

## Comments

The attack against Hatun Tash has generated critics from some British media, and from Tash herself. The Metropolitan Police and Scotland Yard haven't only been slammed for not being able to yet identify nor catch the assailant, despite the fact that several amateur videos were made and the presence of CCTV cameras near the spot. Additionally, some witnesses even claimed that the police quickly dispersed the

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-57965251>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/15712208/christian-preacher-stabbed-hyde-park-charlie-hebdo/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://euroleadership.org/speakers/hatun-tash>

<sup>4</sup>

[https://firenze.repubblica.it/cronaca/2021/07/30/news/accoltella\\_persone\\_in\\_strada\\_risentito\\_dal\\_ritiro\\_usa\\_in\\_iraq\\_-312384323/?ref=RHTP-BH-I304495303-P2-S3-T1&fbclid=IwAR0VVOGoG8AhpZHA9x6Qg8mzS2QPWxlOFPoBMPi1aNm-qZxObRI0IHpWPAY](https://firenze.repubblica.it/cronaca/2021/07/30/news/accoltella_persone_in_strada_risentito_dal_ritiro_usa_in_iraq_-312384323/?ref=RHTP-BH-I304495303-P2-S3-T1&fbclid=IwAR0VVOGoG8AhpZHA9x6Qg8mzS2QPWxlOFPoBMPi1aNm-qZxObRI0IHpWPAY)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.lanazione.it/firenze/cronaca/aggressioni-strada-1.6648992>

gathered crowd after the attack without taking any witness statements. Tash also claimed to have had police officers turning up at her house trying to convince her not to talk to broadcast media before she did an interview with British News on Wednesday.

The fact that the attack is not being treated as terror-related is also very questionable, considering the circumstances and fact that Ms. Tash can be considered as a sensitive target, not only for being a Muslim-born who converted to a different religion but also for her religious activism and for challenging Islam. She had already been physically and verbally attacked in the past.<sup>6 7</sup>

Regarding the attacks that occurred in Florence, Italy, the motivation is interesting as it is the first time that a Kurdish individual decides to attack randomly, using an Isis-style modus operandi (attacking random civilians with a bladed weapon), and with a political motivation that relies upon anti-Isis campaign. In fact, the individual claimed to be angry at the Kurds' former allies, the United States, for abandoning the Kurds in Iraq (after having fought together against the jihadists).

One aspect worth mentioning is the fact that the attacker, besides asking in a few cases the question "where are you from?", targeted a Dutch, several Italians, and another foreign citizen (whose nationality hasn't been released). It is yet unclear why the attacker claimed to be looking for US citizens while targeting other nationals.

---

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9843541/Police-slammed-failing-catch-knifeman-stabbed-Christian-preacher.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/15712208/christian-preacher-stabbed-hyde-park-charlie-hebdo/>